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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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BUILT-IN PARACHUTES HELP TWO STATES SOLVE GAME PROBLEMS

Because the chukar partridge and the wild turkey have "built-in parachutes," California and Florida have solved some of the problems of planting birds in the so-called inaccessible regions, their Federal Aid reports to the Fish and Wildlife Service indicate.

During the past fiscal year California reports that it has released a great number of chukar partridges from planes going about 100 miles an hour and 200 or 300 feet above the ground. The birds tumbled through space for a few feet only, then righted themselves and glided to the ground well within a quarter of a mile of a spring which had been selected as the "target." There were no casualties. The birds collected into groups within a few minutes and began exploring their new home.

Florida successfully released several dozen wild turkeys from planes 200 feet above the ground and traveling at about 50 miles an hour. Like the chukars, the turkeys righted themselves and volplaned to earth.

Some years ago Idaho and Wyoming planted beaver by air but supplied each beaver with a parachute. The chute was attached to a box containing a beaver. The box was so constructed that when it hit the ground it would fly open, releasing the animal. For some time fingerling fish have been planted from the air with no ill effects to the fish, despite the fact that the fish have no "built-in" chute nor were they furnished with any.